

Jean Carman

Please accept the following as my comments for Ecology's scoping process for adopting a variance to lower water quality in the Spokane River.

I find it incredibly disconcerting and morally reprehensible that while our state is filing suit against the EPA for rolling back PCB standards in other parts of the state, the you, in Spokane, are suggesting rolling back those very standards in our Spokane River to take yourself off the hook for not holding anyone accountable for continuing to make it worse for 40 years.

In those 40 years of knowing about the dangers of PCB's, you've never taken any steps against those who continue to pollute the water knowing we don't meet the Clean Water Standards for water we can safely fish and swim in.

You know Spokane advertises the Spokane River as part of our economic and social benefits of living and moving here yet you've know the PCB's rates are too high - you've done nothing to stop them from flowing out of pipes and now you want to use this administration's temporary loophole to 'redefine' what is safe? Please explain why letting polluters off the hook for cleaning up PCB contamination is more important/valuable than public and ecological use of the Spokane River.

What do you think happens to those levels when the summertime flow is the lowest and we are playing in and eating from that river? This is Washington - its not NYC. We take our water safety very seriously and that is why we live here.

Please make the polluters' applications for variance available to the public before asking for scoping comments, and extend the deadline for scoping comments, to allow the public adequate time to fully understand the issues before being asked to comment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the scoping process to adopt a variance for lowering water quality – a move that threatens the ecological health of the Spokane River. Please keep me informed about further developments related to this proposal.